Gandhi Terminal for ten years if , finally, this agreement has to be abrogated as provided in the agreement?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, it is not ten years. Actually, the bidder has agreed to migrate from the Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal to ICDC within two to four years. Within that time, whether the traffic reaches 4 lakh TEUS or not, they have to move. This is the latest condition that we have communicated to them.

Global Positioning System

*27. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:†

Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is planning to provide Global Positioning System (GPS) for motor vehicles in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the System and how it would help the people;

(c) by when this would be implemented in Delhi;

(d) whether his Ministry is also working on National Spatial Data infrastructure along with GPS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is planning to provide data for Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad for putting in place the Global Positioning System (GPS) on moter vehicles. GPS is an instrument freely available in the market.

(b) The digital maps along with GPS can be put to multifarious uses like helping people to know alternative routes for their

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B.J. Panda.

destinations, shortest routes to public utilities like hospitals, police stations, taxi stands etc.

(c) Completion of digital maps is a necessary condition for using this technology. Digital maps of six metros will be prepared by the Survey of India within few months. However, making the digital maps available in the public domain would require approval of the new Map Policy, which is under consideration of the Government. No firm date can be given on this.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. This Ministry along with other Departments is also working on National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The NSDI framework will be compatible with GPS.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for the plans of his Ministry to introduce data and digital maps for the six metros which would enable GPS based services. My supplementary is relating to part (c) of his reply where the hon. Minister has said that making the digital maps available in the public domain would require the approval of the new Map Policy which is under consideration of the Government and no firm date can be given on this. So, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that much of this data is already available on the Internet by commercial satellite mapping services. As such, will he agree that there is no point in denying this information to the Indian public and will that be taken into consideration while formulating the new policy?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am aware of this fact that most of this data is available in the public domain. In fact, there are several websites where you can access this data. That is the position of this Ministry. We are just waiting for the mapping policy to be confirmed and approved by the Cabinet. As soon as that happens we will give this data and make it available. There are serveral conditions to be satisfied. I don't want to go into those details. But this will be done very soon because the matter is already being looked into by the Committee of Secretaries.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, my second supplementary is whether the Ministry is also considering making this data available commercially to Indian companies and Indian citizens so that other related services can also follow from that.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the Standing Committee is also looking into those aspects because the issue is ownership-- whom does the data belong to. When the ownership issue is settled, how do we licence it? Then, another issue is what should be the kind of fees that should be charged? What should be the extent of data that should be made available in the public domain? There are some security issues -- what kind of data should be withheld? All these issues have to be looked at. We are looking at them. We will do it very quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Prime Minister's America visit

*28. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries whose Heads of State/Government had discussions with the Indian Prime Minister on matters of mutual interest in September last during his visit to the USA for addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations, and

(b) outcome of the discussions in each case and to what extent these parleys are expected to help to improve the cause and peace, harmony and tranquility in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

During his visit to New York for the 59th UN General Asembly, the Prime Minister held discussions with the Heads of Governments of USA, South Africa, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Prime Minister also met the Heads of Governments of Japan and Brazil in the frame work of a meeting of a Group of Four countries who agreed to work together and support each other for Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council.

Major issues on the international agenda, on the agenda of the United Nations and important bilateral issues were covered in these meetings. The meeting with President Bush of USA encompassed many subjects,